Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph on page 4, lines 19 to 23, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Without a good forecast, the executives would be blind in making supply decision decisions. Supplying too much information results in scraps and excessive inventory. Supplying too little information results in lost revenue and customer satisfaction. Either way is detrimental to the vitality of the business. Making an accurate forecast is crucial to the success of the business.

Please replace the paragraph on page 7, lines 4 to 23, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The forecast generation from Load/Ship (*LS*) 210 is performed as shown in the flow diagram of Figures 5A and 5B. This function in the invention exploits the relationship between the ratio load/CA and the ratio Ship/Load to refine the estimation of the distribution for the ratio load/CA, which in turn improves the uncertainty of the forecast for the final CA. Figures 8 and 9 illustrate the situation of using this relationship. Figure 8 shows the situation of forecasting for 2Q2003 CA for a particular computer product. On the graph, the dot labeled 3Q02 shows the actual for the ratio of load to CA. If this height of this dot (which is the ratio of load to CA) in this graph can be estimated precisely, then the forecast for the quarter CA for 3Q2002 can also be estimated precisely (obviously, current load divided by this ratio gives the quarterly CA forecast). Without the fitted functional relationship from history, there is no other indication that would lead to the conclusion that 3Q02 load to CA ratio would be that low. Any model making use of history of this ratios would lead to a forecast of this ratio much higher than the actual (for example, the yellow graph line shows the weighted average of the ratios in history). This dramatically improves the forecast accuracy for this case. A similar situation is shown in Figure 9,

where a comparison of forecast to actual for CA is made between BIA and a non-BIA method commonly used.